

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OIC-02 DPW-01

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FROM ICRC USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LUGANO CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS -
SUMMARY OF FOURTH WEEK, FEB 16 - 20

1. FOURTH WEEK OF CONFERENCE CONCLUDED WITH COMPLETION
OF WORK OF SMALL WORKING GROUPS, AND BEGINNING OF WORK ON
REPORTS OF GENERAL WORKING GROUP AND PLENARY.

2. INCENDIARIES: NETHERLANDS EXPERTS INTRODUCED AMEND-
MENTS TO THEIR ORITINAL PROPOSAL, ADDING RESTRICTION ON USE
OF FLAME WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREA. AS INTRODUCED, NEW
PROPOSAL DEFINES FLAME MUNITIONS AS THOSE USING INCENDIARY
AGENTS "BASED ON A GELLED HYDROCARBON", AND PROHIBITS THEIR
USE AS MEANS OF "AERIAL ATTACK" AGAINST MILITARY OBJECTIVES
IN POPULATED AREA EXCEPT IN AREA WHERE GROUND COMBAT IS
TAKING PLACE OR IS IMMINENT. NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL WELCOMED
BY SOME SUPPORTERS OF TOTAL BAN ON INCENDIARIES AS "FIRST
STEP" TOWARD ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, WHILE SEVERAL

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WESTERN EXPERTS EXPRESSED INABILITY TO ACCEPT PORTION

OF DUTCH PROPOSAL RELATING TO FLAME WEAPONS AT THIS TIME.

3. SMALL CALIBER PROJECTILES: GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS MET SEVERAL TIMES, BUT WERE UNABLE TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON TESTING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, GROUP ADOPTED BRIEF REPORT CALLING FOR FURTHER NATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF TESTING STANDARDS. THIS GROUP PRESENTED VIRTUALLY ONLY NEW TECHNICAL DATA IN CONFERENCE. SWEDEN WILL ANNOUNCE IN A LATER PLENARY SESSION THAT THEY WILL SPONSOR A GOTEBOG II SMALL ARMS SYMPOSIUM.

4. BLAST AND FRAGMENTATION WEAPONS: TENTATIVE CONSENSUS REACHED IN GENERAL WORKING GROUP ON DESIRABILITY OF PROHIBITING WEAPONS RELYING ON NON-DETECTABLE FRAGMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOME DISAGREEMENT REMAINS AS TO WHETHER DETECTABILITY BY X-RAYS SHOULD BE SOLE STANDARD, OR WHETHER OTHER MEDICAL PROCEDURES SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS WELL. ANTI-PERSONNEL USE OF FAES CRITICIZED IN GENERAL WORKING GROUP ON BASIS OF ALLEGED OVERALL HIGH KILLED-TO-WOUNDED RATIO AND CERTAIN LETHALITY WITHIN ENVELOPE.

5. MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS: SOME PROGRESS MADE IN MILITARY WORKING GROUP ON REDRAFTING UK/NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL TO SATISFY SEMANTIC PROBLEMS OF USSR AND OTHERS. REVISED VERSION OF THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY GROUP AS GOOD BASIS FOR FURTHER WORK; HOWEVER, DISAGREEMENTS REMAIN ON MANY MATTERS, INCLUDING QUESTIONS OF PROHIBITION OF NON-EXPLOSIVE BOOBY TRAPS AND BOOBY-TRAPPING OF NON-MILITARY PORTABLE OBJECTS, ON PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED ON MINES IN POPULATED AREAS, AND ON RESTRICTIONS ON REMOTELY-DELIVERED MINES. SWITZERLAND AND MEXICO INTRODUCED PROPOSAL PROHIBITING TIME-DELAY MUNITIONS OF ALL SORTS WITH DELAY OF GREATER THAN 24 HOURS; THIS PROPOSAL WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND WILL BE DEFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE.

6. LEGAL EXPERTS: GROUP COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL QUESTIONS. MOST SPEAKERS FAVORED SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORM OF INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY CONFERENCES OF PARTIES, BUT SEVERAL WESTERN EXPERTS EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ALL OF THE PROPOSALS MADE AND THEREFORE DECLINED TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL REVIEW AT THIS TIME.FINA

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